

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4-12, 15-23, 26-34, 36, 38-54, 56, 58-74, 76, and 78-100 are pending. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application based on the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and 103

Claims 1, 4-10, 12, 15-21, 23, 26-32, and 98-100 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Schnelle (WO 98/34179); claims 11, 22, and 33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Schnelle in view of Weinberg *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,144,962); claims 34, 38, 43, 44, 47-50, 54, 58, 63, 64, 67-70, 74, 78, 83, 84, and 87-90 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Schnelle in view of Fay (U.S. Patent No. 5,892,513); claims 36, 45, 46, 51-53, 56, 65, 66, 71-73, 76, 85, 86, 91-93, and 95-97 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Schnelle in view of Fay and further in view of McIntosh (U.S. Patent No. 6,185,576); and claims 39-42, 59-62, and 79-82 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Schnelle in view of Fay and further in view of Chau *et al.* (U.S. Publication No. 2002/0133484).

In view of Applicants' priority claim made herein, Applicants respectfully submit that these rejections are moot. However, to the extent that the Examiner believes a rejection over a combination of the art of record is still proper, Applicants respectfully request that such specific rejection be identified by the Examiner.

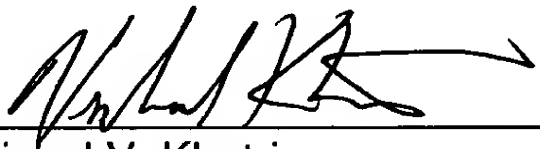
Conclusion

Therefore, all objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Should any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney for Applicants at the telephone number indicated below in order to expeditiously resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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